



Monday 2 October 2017

Year 4 & 5 'Night under the Stars' Camping Trip

Dear Parents

As part of our on-going drive to offer rich learning experiences both in school and beyond, we are very excited to be launching a range of outdoor adventure programs for our Primary students this academic year. The school has formed links with 'Blue Pearl', who offer an extensive 'open skies schooling program' that aims to bring the classroom to the environment. The program has been running for three years and has seen hundreds of Primary age students from a variety of schools in Qatar, including our sister school in Doha, partaking in these unique outdoor experiences.

The Year 4 and 5 trip will take place from Wednesday 1 November to Thursday 2 November at Sharq Village Hotel and Spa, Doha. The program is designed to give students an educational outdoor camping experience, introducing them to the natural environment in safe and controlled surroundings. Students will start exploring and connecting with nature, discovering ecosystems, food chains through demonstration and practical exercises. During the two days, there will be a number of opportunities, both land and water, for students to improve their team building skills, all led by experienced outdoor instructors. The total cost of the trip, including transport to and from the hotel, and all meals is QR 895. Full details of the trip can be seen on the attachment. Please note that the children will be accompanied by school staff as well as staff from Blue Pearl.

If you would like your child to attend this trip, please fill in the details on the slip below and return it to your child's class teacher, along with full payment of QR 895 by Wednesday 11 October 2017. Further information will need to be accessed from parents closer to the date including dietary requirements, medical details etc. Please note that there will need to be a minimum of 30 students attending the trip to make it viable to run.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. For more information about Blue Pearl, please visit <http://www.clubbluepearl.com/>.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jones
Vice Principal

I give permission for my child _____ in class _____ to attend the Year 4 and 5 camping trip to Sharq Village Hotel & Spa. Attached with this slip is the full amount of QR 895.

Parent's name: _____ Signed: _____

Date: _____



NIGHT UNDER THE STARS – 2 DAYS, 1 NIGHT – SHARQ HOTEL

OVERVIEW - This program is designed to give primary students their first outdoor camping experience and introducing them to the natural environment in safe and controlled surroundings. Students start exploring and connecting with nature, discovering ecosystems, food chains through demonstration and practical exercises.

		Different worksheets provided by Blue Pearl to students for each day	
LOCATION	SHARQ HOTEL		SHARQ HOTEL
INCLUSIVE	CAMP WITH TENTS AT THE SHARQ HOTEL (bring your own matt, sleeping bags), BUFFET DINNER BY THE SHARQ, SOFT DRINKS& WATER		BUFFET BREAKFAST BY THE SHARQ, SOFT DRINKS&WATER
		DAY 1.	DAY 2.
TIMINGS	2 PM – OVERNIGHT		6AM – 12 PM
ARRIVAL	SETTING CAMP		HEALTHY BREAKFAST
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Students will experience independence and being self-sufficient during their overnight camping stay, under the guidance and supervision of Blue Pearl's experienced and qualified staff.		Students will learn what makes a healthy, balanced breakfast, learn about foods that are good for the body and will also get the change to make their own. Covering basic housekeeping rules around food.
ACTIVITIES	Upon arrival camp leaders discuss the Camp Code with students, students in their groups are arranged into tents of 3/4s, arranging of sleeping area and belongings in tents. Camp staff will provide guidance and support, with the aim for students to learn through experience in a safe and supportive environment.		Discussing served food (fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy, pastries, ...) and how it affects the body. Students together make their own fruit salad for breakfast under the guidance and supervision of camp staff. Tidying up after eating, discussing importance of hygiene.
		Groups rotation between activities	all students
BLOCK 1.	TEAMBUILDING		MEET THE BEEKEEPER & THE BEES
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Ice-breaker and team bonding sessions that aim to make students get comfortable in this new environment and start collaborating within their teams. The activities will challenge creative thinking, problem solving, persistence and communication skills.		The Sharq hotel's garden is the home to a smaller hive of local bee species. Students will meet the beekeeper and learn about the behaviour of bees, the dynamics of the hive, how honey is harvested
ACTIVITIES	<p>Activity 1 – BLINDFOLDED OBSTACLE COURSE - students within their team are to delegate Communicators and Explorers. With several rotations students are to experience both roles. Explorers will be blindfolded and are to be guided through the obstacle course by the communicators using verbal cues only.</p> <p>Activity 2 – ULTIMATE WATER FRISBEE – a game of speed, precision, agility where communication between team members is key. The group is split into 2 teams to compete in the game. Passing the frisbee between team members the aim is to score at the goal flags. The area is set up in shallow water, so participants will experience what it is like moving in water, while treading water.</p> <p>Activity 3 – LAVA CHALLENGE – a strategic game that involves all students at once, where communication is vital for the successful completion of the challenge. Using wooden blocks all team members are to imitate a river crossing following the set rules.</p>		<p>Activity 1 – MINI BEEKEEPERS - students lead by the camp staff approach the location of the hive to a safe distance. The beekeeper gives an informative talk about the life of the hive and how honey is made. Students will have the chance to see a piece of the honeycomb up close. 3 students will also have the possibility to wear small sized beekeeper's gear. Students ask questions.</p> <p>Activity 2 – HONEY TASTING – Students walk back to the breakfast station and will get the chance to taste the harvested honey on freshly baked paratha bread.</p>
		students in groups	all students
BLOCK 2.	EVENING SCAVANGER HUNT WITH TORCHLIGHTS		EXPLORING THE SEA
LEARNING OUTCOMES	An exploration of the sandy and rocky beach area, learning about the ecology – observing nightlife, rocky shore habitat how it can support so much life, discussing organisms behaviour day and night, discussion about feeding chains, how various species are connected.		Experiencing fun and environmentally friendly way of exploring the sea through watersports. Learning and practicing basic water safety skills, basic paddling technique, completing group and individual challenges on the water.
ACTIVITIES	<p>ACTIVITY 1. - OBSERVATION WALK – Students in groups lead by camp staff and teachers, take their torchlights and head for a walk along the beach of the hotel. In this small area sandy and rocky shore areas can be observed at the same time.</p> <p>ACTIVITY 2. - SCAVANGER HUNT, BEACH CLEANUP – collecting shells, corals, sponges, crab shells, sea grass washed to shore. Identifying what was found. Students will be introduced to the leave it as you found it concept – all collected will be simply observed then placed back. Each team will also have a rubbish bag to collect rubbish washed up to shore. Discussion about what belongs and what does not belong at the beach, in the sea.</p> <p>ACTIVITY 3. - TIDES EXPERIMENT – Identifying tidal conditions, discussing how tides work and affect the life of organisms. Each team will mark the sea level on the rocks, this will be checked in the morning to demonstrate the tidal range.</p>		<p>Activity 1 – KAYAKING - students are handed out buoyancy aids and paddles. The instructors brief all on watersafety and basic steering skills (forward, backward, stopping, turning) on the beach. The group led by the instructor completes games and a cruise in the marked area in front of the hotel on shallow water.</p> <p>Activity 2 – MEGASUP – Students are handed out buoyancy aids and paddles. Briefing on shore by the instructor about water safety and steering. Approximately 7 students and 1 instructor will be paddling a MegaSUP working together as a team to propel the board forward and complete a race against the other team.</p> <p>Activity 3 – SUP POLO – Students are handed out buoyancy aids and briefed of the game rules on shore. The game is played lying on SUPs in prone position and propelling with arms to reach the water polo ball and score. 2 teams compete for the winning position, the team with the most scores is the winner.</p>
		all students	
BLOCK 3.	CAMPFIRE AND MARSHMALLOWS		
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Students group around a controlled camp fire and roast marshmallows. In case of wind this program is not ran for safety reasons and discussed with students to raise awareness.		
ACTIVITIES	Learning how to navigate with stars, spotting constellations, discussing how pollution can affect visibility, city vs desert conditions.		

SHARQ CAMP SITE

SETTING UP A CAMP - RAFT BUILDING & FLOATING - WATERSPORTS (SUP, MEGASUP, KAYAKING) – BEACH CHALLENGES – BONFIRE, MARSHMALLOWS – EVENING SCAVANGER HUNT – MEET THE BEEKEEPER, SEE HOW HONEY IS MADE

